

# Fear and Faith

Luke 5:1-11

A man had been very sick, so his wife took him to the doctor. The doctor examined the man, spoke with him at length to try to discern what was ailing him and did a number tests. When the results of the tests came back, the doctor called the man's wife aside and told her the news. Your husband can survive this, with the proper amount of tender loving care. So if you want your husband to make it, you're going to have wait on him hand and foot. Day and night. Whatever he needs, make sure he gets it. You must keep the stress out of his life. Make his favorite meals, no matter how elaborate, rub his feet, make sure the house is spotless and orderly. You understand? Yes.

The woman went back to her husband who was of course eager to know what the doctor said. The woman answered "The doctor says you're going to die."

How do you feel when someone breaks into the set routine of your life? There are all kinds of interruptions in our lives - some good and some bad - and, we all have them! Jesus, our Lord, has a unique way of breaking in and making us step out of our "Comfort Zone."

A little background information is helpful as we get started today. The Sea of Galilee, the largest freshwater lake in Israel, named for its location in the ancient region known as Galilee, was also known as Lake Tiberius, Lake Genessaret, and the Sea of Chinnereth. Today the body of water is called Lake Kinneret ("Harp") because of its shape. It is thirteen miles long and seven miles wide; and, is the source of most of the drinking water of Israel, as well as a popular tourist attraction!

Much of the earthly ministry of Jesus, the Christ, occurred on or near the shores of the Sea of Galilee, a fact prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah. Jesus, the Christ, was raised in Galilee; and, he would call the Disciples, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, all fishermen, by the Sea of Galilee.

When we are bored and lonely, we might rejoice at the interruptions of our lives; but, if we are fairly comfortable with our schedules or routines, interruptions of our lives become annoying and unsettling. How about that friend that calls at midnight, just to chat? Or, that salesman that shows up at our door just when we have sat down to dinner? Or, on a more serious note, that interruption that comes with marital failure, or children who have gotten into trouble with the law? This morning, the Lord would have us focus on the way that Jesus, the Christ, interrupts our lives - how he breaks into our well-set routines and causes us to step out of our "Comfort Zones."

As we look at Luke, chapter 5 this morning we are going to see Jesus call his disciples away from what is comfortable to them and into a deeper relationship with Him. Jesus is still calling out to you and I in the same way. Follow along as Simon Peter reacts to Jesus by ...

Following From A Distance

Failing To Trust His Word, and...

Falling To His Knees

I. Body

A. Following From A Distance

a) **relationship with Jesus is built over time**

2. Simon Peter's calling

a) First call -- Introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew  
(John 1:40-42)

(1) Peter is interested in Jesus the Rabbi, teacher

(2) Peter allows Jesus the use of his home (Luke  
4:38-39)

b) Second call -- in today's text, by the sea

(1) Peter humbles himself and surrenders his all to  
Jesus

(2) Peter follows Jesus as a disciple

c) Third call -- Jesus chooses Peter with the twelve as  
apostles (Luke 6:13ff)

3. Jesus was teaching by the shore of the Lake

4. Simon (Peter) and the others were finishing up from fishing all  
night.

5. Jesus asked to use their boat

a) Notice that this was within the level of relationship that  
Peter had with Jesus.

## B. Failing To Trust His Word

### a) **Faith builds with experience, over time with Jesus**

1. Peter trusts Jesus enough to lend Him his boat
  - a) there was another boat there
  - b) most believe that boat to have belonged to Zebedee and his sons, James and John
2. Jesus asks Peter to use his boat
  - a) Again, Jesus doesn't have a relationship with Zebedee
  - b) So, He asks Peter
3. Jesus' call for Peter to launch out into deeper water is an analogy for what He wants to do in Peter's life. Jesus is going to take Simon Peter to deeper, more personal commitment to Himself.
4. Peter doesn't trust Jesus with the things Peter thinks he 'knows'
  - a) They have worked the waters all night for naught. Luke used the word kopiao, "to grow weary." It means to toil with wearisome grief. This was more than simply a hard nights work. There was the burden of taking care of their family and coming home with nothing.
  - b) Not mentioned, but nevertheless, they had just "cleaned up" after that long night's work
  - c) Still, Peter obeys -- one test of submission is to obey even when you do not understand.
  - d) As one author writes about this, "When Jesus calls, Peter is hesitant and thinks that what Jesus asks of him is both unnecessary and too demanding. Nevertheless, Peter responds, and he discovers that life has a surprise in store for him. By doing what Jesus asks him to do, he experiences a revelation of God."

5. Jesus shows Peter what He knows (that is, Who He Is)
  - a) the nets were stretched to their limit, but not beyond
  - b) the boats were filled to the point of sinking, but not beyond
  - c) Jesus knows just how much to "bless" us with
6. "God often becomes manifest in the ordinary, even seemingly unnecessary events of a person's life — events which nevertheless are in accord with some purpose that is or is not known."
7. As author, Jerry Goebel writes, "The first thing we must understand about this miracle is that Jesus didn't send the Apostle's out into the lake because he was hungry and wanted fish and chips for lunch. He doesn't give them a task for his sake; he sends them out for their sake. Jesus doesn't send us into mission for his sake; it is for our sake that we must go. Faith unpracticed is not faith at all."
8. And so, how does Jesus take us from where we are to where he wants us to be?
  - a) By pushing us, that's how. Jesus pushes us, ever gently, sometimes with words, sometimes with actions, away from one level of stability, as symbolized by the shallow water near the shore, to a place where we are more dependent on God, as symbolized by the deeper water.
  - b) And we might also mildly argue with him, saying, "Lord, I've already been there and done that." I've already tried reading the Bible, I've already prayed, and it hasn't worked. I've already But hopefully we won't stop there, but will continue to say, "But if this is what you want me to do, to go once again from where I am now, then so be it."
  - c) What happens in the deeper water? It is more scary. It is more unstable, at least more unfamiliar. But it is also where Jesus want's us to be.

### C. Falling To His Knees

#### a) **for what reason: Fear or Worship?**

#### 1. Recognizing the presence of the Holy One, Peter fears his own death

a) He bows down in worship

b) He acknowledges his sinfulness

(1) At first his request seems strange, if we take it at face value, that he would ask Jesus to leave. But we have to understand the scene in the light of what has happened. This new revelation of the power and glory of Jesus has given Peter an acute sense of his own sinfulness. Peter was not really trying to get rid of Jesus; he was simply overcome with a sense of his own unworthiness. When he calls Jesus, "Lord" it is an entirely different word than used previously in verse five, this is (kurios) and is reserved by the Jews as a description of GOD. Peter's reaction is what we often see in the Bible as man's reaction to face-to-face confrontation with God. When the prophet Isaiah "... saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up" he declared, "Woe is me, for I am undone!" (Isaiah 6:1, 5). Job had much the same experience; "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. (6) Therefore I abhor ( despise) myself, And repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:5-6). And John would write of his experience in Revelation 1: 17, "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead...."

c) Which part of this are we missing out on today?

(1) recognition of the Holy?

(a) according to George Barna's surveys... 44% of Americans, many of them Born-again Christians, believe that Jesus sinned

(2) humility in worship?

(a) in this day of obsession with positive self-image, far too many have upgraded themselves and downgraded God

(3) acknowledging our needfulness?

(a) who here today needs more of God?

2. Jesus calm his fears

a) He refuses to depart -- Where would any of us be if Jesus fled from sinners?

b) Jesus deals with what troubles Peter

c) When first introduced to the power and majesty of the Lord we are immensely aware of our own sin, and do not know what to do but try to escape from his presence. Simon asked Jesus to leave him, not because he does not want to be in his presence but because he feels unworthy of being there. But as our experience deepens, and we gain the knowledge that only in Him can we experience the forgiveness of our sins, then a consciousness of our sin drives us to him.

3. Jesus announces a new claim upon Peter's life

a) from now on

b) you will catch men (alive)

## II. Conclusion

- A. Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, told a story about a goose who was wounded and who landed in a barnyard with some chickens. He played with the chickens and ate with the chickens. After a while that goose thought he was a chicken. One day a flight of geese came over, migrating to their home. They gave a honk up there in the sky, and he heard it.
- B. Kierkegaard said, "Something stirred within the breast of this goose. Something called him to the skies. He began to flap the wings he hadn't used, and he rose a few feet into the air. Then he stopped, and he settled back again into the mud of the barnyard. He heard the cry, but he settled for less."
- C. Where are you in your relationship with Christ?
  - A. Are you growing? Are you settling?
  - B. Are you content to sit, listening to the teaching and mending your nets whilst Jesus is asking to "use your boat"?
  - C. Or are you anchored safely near the shoreline when Jesus is asking you to move out into "deeper waters" ?
  - D. What is your reaction when Jesus asks you to do the unlikely?
  - E. What about the impossible?
- D. Relationship with Jesus involves moving closer to His will for your life and answering His call upon your life.
- E. Will you hear Him and answer today?